

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 21st instant, a report of the Secretary of the Navy, accompanied by copies of instructions given to the officers of the United States naval forces on the coasts of Mexico, to protect the persons and property of the citizens of the United States, and copies of the official reports of Captain Jarvis and Commander Turner of the capture of two Mexican war steamers, and the causes which led to said capture.

MARCH 30, 1860.—Read and ordered to lie on the table. Motion to print referred to Committee on printing.

MARCH 31.—Report in favor of printing the usual number submitted, considered, and agreed to.

To the Senate of the United States :

In compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 21st of March, 1860, requesting the President of the United States "to inform the Senate, if, in his opinion, it be not incompatible with the public interest, if any instructions have been given to any of the officers of the navy of the United States by which, in any event, the naval force of the United States, or any part thereof, were to take part in the civil war now existing in Mexico; and if the recent capture of two war steamers of Mexico by the naval force of the United States was done in pursuance of orders issued by this government; and also, by what authority those steamers have been taken in possession by the naval force of the United States, and the men on board made prisoners," I transmit the inclosed report, with accompanying papers, from the Secretary of the Navy.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, *March 29, 1860.*

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *March 29, 1860.*

SIR: In reply to the resolution of the Senate of March 21, 1860, referred by you to this department, I have the honor to report, that no "instructions have been given to any of the officers of the navy of the United States by which, in any event, the naval force of the United States, or any part thereof, were to take part in the civil war now

existing in Mexico." Orders have been given to our naval forces on the coasts of Mexico to protect the persons and property of the citizens of the United States. The accompanying instructions of July 27, 1858, and March 13, 1860, to Captain Joseph R. Jarvis, commanding the United States sloop-of-war Savannah, were given when they respectively bear date. The latter had not reached him at the time of the capture of the two war steamers referred to in the aforesaid resolution. The annexed official reports of Captain Jarvis, of the Savannah, and of Commander Thomas Turner, of the Saratoga, give full information of the circumstances of the capture of those steamers, and of the causes which led to it. Upon the facts stated in these reports, the department approves of the conduct of both those gallant officers, and of the officers and men under their command.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *July 27, 1858.*

SIR: The United States sloop-of-war Savannah, to the command of which the department has assigned you, having been prepared for service in the home squadron, you will, as soon after the receipt of this as practicable, proceed with her, with all dispatch, to the port of San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua. You will remain there until otherwise instructed by the department or Flag-officer McIntosh, to whom you will report, by letter, to Boston, as a part of the squadron under his command.

You will at all times afford protection to the citizens of the United States and their property, and should occasion arise, protect any vessel of the United States from search or detention on the high seas by the armed ships of any other power.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Captain JOSEPH R. JARVIS,

Commanding U. S. Sloop Savannah, New York.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *March 13, 1860.*

SIR: With the view to afford the protection due to our citizens at Vera Cruz, the President has directed the Hon. Mr. McLane, should a hostile force approach that place and he should consider the American citizens there in danger from its operations, to request the commanding officer of the United States vessels-of-war upon that coast to land such forces as may be needed and can be spared from indispensable duties, and to employ them for the protection of our citizens whose persons or property he may believe to be in danger. Should Mr. McLane, therefore, make of you, as the senior commanding officer present,

the request which his instructions authorize him to do, you will promptly comply with it.

Statements having been made which lead to the belief that arrangements are making by what is known as the Miramon government of Mexico to establish a blockade at Vera Cruz and other ports on the Gulf of Mexico, the President has decided that no such blockade will be recognized by the United States. You are, therefore, directed to employ the naval force under your command to afford American vessels free ingress and egress at all Mexican ports and fully to protect them.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

Captain JOSEPH R. JARVIS,

Comd'g U. S. Sloop Savannah, Vera Cruz, Mexico.

The same sent to Captain D. G. Farragut, commanding the Brooklyn; to Commander Thomas Turner, commanding Saratoga; to Commander Thornton A. Jenkins, commanding Preble; and to Commander S. F. Hazard, commanding the Pocahontas.

UNITED STATES SLOOP SAVANNAH,
Off Vera Cruz, Mexico, March 11, 1860.

SIR: I had the honor of forwarding a communication to you on the 3d instant, by the English mail steamer, in which I stated that the English government were trying to effect an armistice between the contending parties in Mexico. Since then I have been informed that Miramon has made proposals, which have been rejected as inadmissible by this government. I have not been able to ascertain if they have made any counter-proposition. On the 3d instant, General Miramon having arrived at Medeline, I sent Commander Turner, with the permission of this government, to communicate with him; and I herewith inclose Commander Turner's report to me.

On the 4th instant, this government withdrew the exequatur from Mr. B. B. I. Tuyman, American consul, for good and substantial reasons, they say. The whole of the facts, I presume, will be reported to the State Department by the legation here. At the request of the secretary of legation, I have given Lieutenant Meiere, of the marine corps, permission to accept, for the time being, of an appointment from him of vice-consul, which, I trust, will meet your approbation.

On the 6th instant, two vessels, apparently men-of-war, appeared at anchor off Antigua—a small place about fourteen miles to the northward of this—without any colors flying. After laying there some time they got under way, and proceeded to the southward and eastward. They paid no attention to the flags on board the men-of-war, nor to the castle, from which a gun was fired to call their attention to the fact. They treated all with contempt, and proceeded to Anton Lizardo, where they came to anchor. Under these circumstances, I felt it my duty to ascertain who they were, and I therefore sent the United States ship Saratoga, Commander Turner, upon that duty. As the wind was

directly ahead, I availed myself of the offer of two small steamers to take him in tow.

For further particulars of the unfortunate occurrence that took place afterwards, I must refer you to Commander Turner's report. I do not see how it was possible for Commander Turner to do otherwise than he did; and I think that he and the other officers deserve great credit for their promptness in defending their flag.

I shall send the two steamers to New Orleans as soon as possible; and I have ordered Commander Jenkins, of the *Preble*, (who will accompany them with the prisoners,) after delivering the steamers to the United States marshal, to take the prize crews on board his vessel, and proceed to Pensacola for provisions. I have been under the necessity of employing a part of the engineers, firemen, &c., belonging to the two steamers, to carry them to New Orleans; and I have directed Commander Jenkins to pay them for the time they may be employed at the same rate as is paid for their grade in the navy of the United States.

This place is at the present time closely besieged. On the night of the 6th instant, they attempted to carry it by storm, but were beaten off, and, from present appearances, I think the same result will occur should they again attempt it. From all I can learn, they have as many troops in the city as the besieging party.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH R. JARVIS,
Captain.

Hon. ISAAC TOUCEY,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

UNITED STATES SHIP *SARATOGA*,
Off Vera Cruz, Mexico, March 4, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, in obedience to your instructions, I proceeded yesterday to the headquarters of General Miramon, at the town of "Medelene" about four leagues distant. Immediately on my arrival, I dispatched a messenger to him to announce my presence in the town, and to say "that, having in charge a communication from yourself, I should be glad to know at what hour he would be pleased to receive me." I was informed, in reply, that he would see me at once. Without loss of time, I repaired to his lodgings, where I was received by him, accompanied by General Robles and Mr. Dias, his minister of justice. I informed him that I had been instructed by you to say to him, "that, having been sent to this coast for the exclusive purpose of affording protection to the persons and property of American citizens, as the senior officer present, you had felt yourself bound at the earliest moment of his appearance before Vera Cruz, to ascertain from him distinctly what were his intentions in respect to the persons and property of American citizens in that city, in the event of his taking it." He replied, without hesitation, "that, as in the case of all foreigners, he should respect them and it, and

should afford to both American citizens and their property all the protection which it was in his power to give." I then said, having received this assurance, sir, I am further instructed by Captain Jarvis to say, "that in your attack upon the city, and in the event of your gaining possession of it, he will cause to be hoisted at the flag-staff of each house covering American citizens and property, the flag of the United States, in order that, as far as it was possible, they and it might be preserved from danger and damage by bombardment, and to insure to the occupants of those residences that respect on the part of your troops with which you have yourself expressed your determination to regard them." He replied "that he concurred in the wisdom and necessity of such arrangement, should bear it in mind, and hoped that it would be effectual in preserving them from harm and injury."

I remarked, in conclusion, "that I was happy to take back such a reply, which could not fail to be satisfactory to my commanding officer," and thus ended the official part of our intercourse.

In his deportment towards me, General Miramon was grave and reserved, but respectful and courteous; on the other hand, General Robles received and treated me with the utmost cordiality and kindness during my entire interview.

On leaving, I said to him, that I desired to remain in the town until the cool of the evening for my return, and that I had several communications from persons in Vera Cruz to members of their families who had taken refuge in Medelene, which I should like to deliver. He replied, go where you please, and stay as long as you like, and deliver what you have to whomsoever you like; with which I took leave of him.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. TURNER,
Commander.

Captain JOSEPH R. JARVIS,
Commanding United States Ship Savannah.

UNITED STATES SHIP SARATOGA,
Off Vera Cruz, Mexico, March 8, 1860.

SIR: On the morning of the 6th instant two large steamers appeared off the harbor of Vera Cruz, without any flag being hoisted, although a gun was fired from the castle, and the Mexican flag was run up at the same time to induce them to do so.

They were evidently confederates, as they were hove to for some time, communicating with each other.

After several hours, and after communicating with the Spanish vessels-of-war at Sacrificios, which sent out a boat to them, they stood down the coast in the direction of Anton Lizardo.

You directed me immediately to place my ship in tow of two small American steamers here, the Wave and Indianola, which were placed at your disposal, to follow them, and to ascertain their character, where they were from, of what nation, where they fitted

out, and what was their object upon this coast, and to report to you the result of these inquiries with all practicable dispatch.

In obedience to these orders, I left here about sunset, in tow of those vessels, on board of each of which I placed a detachment of about thirty-five men and marines, in case they might go into shoal water, where my ship, with her large draught, could not follow and communicate with them. The detachment on board the Wave was commanded by Lieutenant Joel S. Kennard, of the Savannah, accompanied by Midshipman William C. Whittle, jr., of the Preble. That of the Indianola was commanded by Lieutenant Andrew Bryson, of the corvette Preble, accompanied by Master Joseph N. Miller, of the same vessel, Lieutenant Andrew J. Hays, of the marine guard of the Savannah, and Lieutenant Julius E. Meiere, of the marine guard of this ship.

I proceeded down the coast, making direct for Anton Lizardo, fifteen miles distant, where I expected to find them.

About midnight, two large vessels were reported at anchor at Anton Lizardo. I stood directly for them. I had directed my pilot to anchor me immediately between the two vessels.

At the moment when I had nearly reached this point, and the tow was cast off, both the little steamers being ahead of me, they hailed, and reported that the larger steamer of the two was under way, and endeavoring to escape through the southern passage.

I hailed, and ordered them to pursue him, and to get on board of him, if possible, as I was ordered to communicate with the senior officer, who I supposed was on board this vessel; at the same moment I fired a shot ahead of him, to bring him to.

As soon as they got close to him, which was but a few moments, to my extreme astonishment, he opened a heavy fire of great guns and musketry upon them; and it was reported to me at the same time that the other steamer was slipping her cable.

I immediately gave him a broadside, as I had not the remotest doubt of his being in complicity with and under the orders of the officer of the other steamer, and I was afraid he would go to his assistance, in which case I should have been obliged to recall my vessels, or to have witnessed their capture and destruction; and as he had had the audacity to fire into me without any provocation whatever, I was determined to seize him if I could. He ran up the Spanish flag as soon as I fired.

In the meantime, the larger steamer was hotly engaged with the forces on board my two little steamers, in a running fight.

Finding that he could not get out of the southern passage, he immediately changed his course, put his head to the northward, and passed inside of me to gain the northern passage, and to keep out of the way of my guns, followed by my vessels, warmly engaged with him all the time.

He was evidently too fast for and was gaining upon them. As he shot ahead of them I got a gun to bear upon him, and shot away his smoke stack. I found now that it was impossible to fire without danger to my vessels, as they were all together. The chase was continued in the midst of a hot fire on either side. I could not but admire, at this moment, the daring gallantry of these fine fellows,

contending with so superior a force. They closed in upon and grappled with him, in spite of his efforts to shake them off. Finding it was impossible to escape, I suppose he ran his vessel on shore; at all events, pressed closely by them, she grounded, which I was not aware of at the time. They were then distant about a mile from my ship, and my anxiety was intense for their safety. I could afford them no possible aid; my three largest cutters were inboard, and before I could have manned my boats and got to them, the affair would have been ended. I was not, however, kept long in suspense, for almost immediately I heard three cheers, and was informed that they were boarding her over her bows, which could be distinctly seen by our glasses.

I now return to the steamer anchored close to me. Whilst the engagement continued between the other vessels, and at the moment that they were passing this ship, the first lieutenant, who was on the poop, called to me to say that this steamer was firing musketry. I directed, again, a division of guns to be given him, which was done. I then hailed and ordered him on board. As he did not come at once, I sent Lieutenant Chapman on board to say, if he did not instantly come on board, I would send a guard to bring him. He came on board and informed me, in answer to my inquiries, that his ship was the *Marquis of Havana*, that he had been employed by Captain Marin, who commanded the other ship, to transport stores and munitions of war, and that he was Spanish.

In the meantime I had sent an officer to bring Captain Marin on board. As soon as he reached my cabin I asked him how he had dared to fire upon my vessels. He replied, unhesitatingly, and in the presence of a witness, "That when he observed my vessels steaming into the harbor, he had informed his crew that he was sure they were American vessels-of-war, and positively forbidden them to fire, but that it was a mixed crew of various nations, having been but recently taken on board, and not being yet properly disciplined, he found it impossible to control them."

I observed to him that it was a great outrage, for which he would have to answer; which he pretended most deeply to regret. All of which I knew to be untrue, because, during the action, he was distinctly heard calling upon his men to board with him. You will perceive how all this conflicts with the accompanying depositions of four of his crew.

It only remains for me to speak of the force and armament of these vessels, as far as I have been able to ascertain it.

The large steamer, called the *General Miramon*, carries two broadside, one pivot gun, and several howitzers, with a crew of about a hundred men. I am not positive as to the caliber of her guns. Supposing that she would follow me up yesterday, I expected to have been able to give a minute account of her, but she is still aground.

The *Marquis of Havana* carries also one pivot and two broadside guns, with about seventy persons on board; her pivot gun is a heavy 24-pounder.

The captain of this last vessel threw overboard quantities of ammunition, much of which was picked up, floating in the harbor, by my

boats, in chests and kegs. When he was taken possession of, his guns were all dismounted, and were lying upon the deck by the side of the carriages, which I have no doubt was done after he found he was captured and before I could get a boat on board of him. He assumed to be an unarmed vessel, and his papers of clearance, which I herewith inclose, made out at Havana, do not speak of his having any guns on board. Yet his armament is such as I have reported it, and there is not a doubt but that his vessel was equipped at Havana as a part of the force with which Captain Marin was to act on this coast.

It now becomes my painful duty to speak of a circumstance which has occasioned me the deepest concern and regret. About two hours after the engagement, a boat came alongside from the *Indianola*, with a person very badly wounded, dressed in citizen's clothes. Upon inquiry, I was informed it was General Llave, of the Mexican army. I immediately had him taken to my cabin. It seems, by his own account, as he related it to me, that, as I was about leaving Vera Cruz, he was sent off to the *Indianola* by this government, to obtain some information as to my movements, and that, in the hurry and confusion of getting under way and towing out, his boat left him.

The officers commanding these vessels had been particularly instructed by me to allow no strangers or others than Americans to remain on board—no one but their crews, engineers, and firemen; as these were all strangers, the officer in command could not distinguish between them and other strange persons on board, and did not know that he was on board until he saw him wounded. Immediately on my arrival here, I sent him in a cot to the castle, where he now is. This officer, Lieutenant Bryson, is not to blame; he know nothing of his coming on board, or of his being on board, until his condition disclosed it, when he sent him to me.

On our part, I am glad to be able to report to you the small loss our vessels have sustained in this engagement. I have had but one man mortally wounded, who is still alive, one seriously, and several slightly. This is the more remarkable, as the engagement lasted from a half to three quarters of an hour, and the firing was incessant during the time; but it must be remembered that it was at night.

On the part of these people the loss was much more severe; twelve were brought on board my ship severely wounded, three of whom have died. I have sent all the others to the hospital on shore. The wounds in almost every case being by Minie rifle bullets, are very severe.

I should have remained at Anton Lizardo until the General Miramon was got afloat, but the doctor requested me to come up at once with the wounded, who said it was impossible to move to any other vessel.

I cannot close this dispatch, sir, without expressing my extreme satisfaction with the conduct of all the officers and men of the expedition. My own officers and men, who unfortunately had but a small share in the engagement, by their alacrity, activity, and promptitude to obey and execute orders, taught me to feel with what confidence I could depend upon them, if my ship should at any time be called to defend the honor of our flag.

I have already spoken of the conduct of the officers and men on board the *Indianola* and *Wave*. On their part it was a brilliant affair.

I have omitted to state that the vessel of Captain Marin, called the *General Miramon*, did not hoist her colors at any time before, during, or after the engagement, and that it was a brilliant moonlight night, when he could have most easily satisfied himself that the *Saratoga* could not possibly have been a vessel belonging to any Mexican power or party.

I have also omitted to state that the clearance papers of the *Marquis of Havana* certify to only thirty-three persons on board, whereas I am informed by the officer now in charge of her that after thirty of them had been removed to your ship there remained at least forty still on board of her.

As this ship was sent immediately back to assist in floating the *General Miramon*, I have been unable to make an accurate report of the number of persons on board.

About the time that the *General Miramon* was taken, a boat escaped from her to the shore, said to contain officers of *General Miramon's* army.

The statement which I have herein submitted to you of all the important details of this affair will be testified to by every officer of the expedition.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
T. TURNER, *Commander*.

Captain JOSEPH R. JARVIS,
Commanding U. S. Ship Savannah.

P. S. As every effort will be made by the parties who have suffered to misrepresent the facts of this affair, I have desired to be as accurate in my statement as possible.

I have said that the *General Miramon* had a hundred men on board. I removed from her fifty men before leaving *Anton Lizardo*, who are now on board my ship; but it is possible that I shall never know what number of men she had on board, as some escaped in a boat to the shore just before she was boarded. There may have been more, there may have been less than one hundred men on board.

I have said that the pivot-gun of the *Marquis of Havana* was a 24-pounder. It may have been a 32. I do not wish to overrate or underrate the armament of these vessels.

On my arrival here from *Anton Lizardo*, my ship unfortunately grounded in the bay, and I was all day endeavoring to get her off. I had no time to give my attention to anything else.

That vessel left the next morning at daylight, since which, by a gale of wind from the north, I have been cut off from both these vessels.

I herewith inclose depositions of the first lieutenant, of the purser, of the orderly sergeant, and of the marine guard of this ship, who were all on the poop during the action, as to the fact that the *Marquis of Havana* fired musketry during the engagement; and also the certificate of *Reuben Applegate*, to a conversation with the engineer of the *Marquis of Havana*, who died of his wounds.

I find, in the haste with which I have written this communication, that I have committed the mistake of saying that I had placed thirty-five men on board the Wave; that vessel had on board only nineteen men.

The undersigned, Robert Danty, Leon Aubri, Arthur Comly, and John Durand: we have embarked ourselves on board the Paqueta Correo No. 1, on the 20th February, 1860, for Vera Cruz, under the following conditions: that we were to be on board until the 25th of March; that they were to pay us one month's wages in advance, and, on our arrival, we were to receive another month's wages, they paying our passage back to Havana, (to those who would be willing to return.) We left Havana on the 26th. Once the steamer under way, the Mexican flag was hoisted. They had promised us to pay us our wages on leaving the port, but it was not so. We sailed two days without accident, but on the third the machinery of the steamer Marquis of Havana, which navigated in concert with us, was damaged, and we were obliged to come to the salines of Campeachy to wait until the reparations, which they were going to make next day, were finished. We met the mail steamer from Vera Cruz. She made a signal, wishing to communicate with us. We approached, and it was then that we saw the ambuscade we had fallen in, for we heard the cries of "Hurrah for Miramon!" When we left the mail steamer, we saw the guns and muskets, which they had hidden in the hold in boxes; for, when we sailed, nobody knew that the steamer carried war ammunition. The next day they distributed to every one of us sailor's effects, with a hat bearing a black ribbon with gilt letters on, with this name, "General Miramon." Two of our companions refused to take them, saying that we had not come to remain with them, and that those articles they were in no need of them; but they were badly treated by the quartermaster, and compelled to receive them. The day after the next, twelve leagues before making the harbor, we came alongside of a boat, which it appears was reconnoitered, and was asked what was told and said at Vera Cruz. The master of the boat came on board, and told that Vera Cruz was besieged, and that that morning he had heard the report of guns. When we came in, the commander approached his steamer to the Marquis de la Habana, and the general told the captain not to hoist any flag in coming in, for it was not necessary, and to follow him.

We all thought that they were going to hoist the English colors, as they had done at Havana in the holydays, for when we came on board the steamer had the English colors, which they hoisted every time the place of Havana desired him to do so.

When we arrived in front of Vera Cruz, we heard asked why we did not come into the port? They answered, that we were going to anchor at Sacrificios, and that the next day we would go to Vera Cruz; but we did not stop at Sacrificios neither. We were much disgusted with such proceedings, for we were quite ignorant where we were going. We must say that the guns were loaded since that morning, and they had hoisted them on deck, and when, at 11½, p. m., they knew that they were coming against us, nobody wished to take the post to which they were appointed, saying that we had not come for fighting.

All the shots have been fired by the officers. The captain has fired

the gun at the stern, the artillery officer, who had loaded the guns, fired the one of the starboard.

We forgot to state that, as soon as we had cast the anchor, a boat was sent ashore, which came back with six persons bearing the distinctive of officers. As soon as they were arrived, they shook hands and embraced those on board, and went to the cabin, there to talk. What was said in the cabin we do not know; we only heard that the next day, in the morning, the boat would be sent to take them on board.

The mail steamer we met with, and about which we have spoken before, is the *Mexico*. We have sent a boat on board twice, and it is the second time that the boat brought a passenger, and boards and planks for repairing the machinery of the *Marquis de la Habana*.

The passenger from the "*Mexico*" was called colonel, and he is now a prisoner on board the steamer *General Miramon*.

VERA CRUZ, *March 7, 1860.*

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that this declaration has been made by our own will. In testimony wherof, we have affixed our signatures.

ARTURO COMLY,
JEAN DURAND,
ROBERT DANTY.

Not knowing how to write, a mark.

LEON AUBRI.

VERA CRUZ, *March 8, 1860.*

I hereby testify on oath that I was present at an interview which took place in the cabin of the *Saratoga* between Commander Turner and Captain Marin.

When Captain Turner asked Captain Marin why he had dared to fire on our vessels without any provocation, Captain Marin replied that he knew we were American vessels when he saw us approaching Anton Lizardo, and he told his crew so, and commanded them not to fire on us; but that he had a mixed crew of different nations, having been recently shipped, and that he could not control them. Captain Turner then said to him, you have committed a great outrage for which you will be held responsible; that upon you lies the whole blame of this most unfortunate engagement. Captain Marin then said he most deeply regretted it.

THEODORE SABUS.

I hereby certify that personally came and appeared before me, signed the above deposition, and made oath to the truth of its contents, Theodore Sabus, a petty officer of the United States ship *Saratoga*.

C. L. E. D. ELGEE,
Secretary United States Legation.

UNITED STATES SHIP SARATOGA,
Off Vera Cruz, Mexico, March 10, 1860.

I hereby certify that I heard Charles Miner, a citizen of New York, an engineer of the steamer Marquis of Havana, who died of his wounds on board this ship, say that the Marquis of Havana fired volleys of musketry during the action on the night of the 6th instant, and that he had requested permission of the captain of that vessel to hail this ship, which he was forbidden to do; and furthermore, that said steamer hove one 32-pounder overboard, and also some muskets, before our boats did board her.

REUBEN APPLGATE,
Seaman.

UNITED STATES SHIP SARATOGA,
Off Vera Cruz, March 10, 1860.

This is to certify that I was on the poop-deck of this ship during the engagement with the piratical steamers, and heard balls whizzing over my head. From the position of the various steamers, they could have come from no other steamer than the Marquis of Havana.

JAMES H. WATMOUGH.
Purser United States Navy.

UNITED STATES SHIP SARATOGA,
Off Vera Cruz, March 10, 1860.

This is to certify that whilst standing on the starboard side of the poop, and while the General Miramon, Indianola, and Wave were crossing our bow, I heard balls passing over my head. Thomas Lloyd, quartermaster, at the same time, turned to me and said, "The steamer on our port quarter is firing at us." I looked around immediately, and saw the flash of musketry on board of her, and heard balls passing over our heads. From the relative positions of the other steamers to each other and to us, it was impossible that they could have come from any vessel but the Marquis de Havana.

M. C. PERRY,
Lieutenant and Executive Officer.

We, the undersigned, non-commissioned officers and privates of the marine guard of this ship, do certify that we saw volleys of musketry fired from the steamer abreast of us, called the Marquis of Havana,

during the engagement on the night of the 6th instant, which was returned instantly by the guard drawn up on the poop at quarters.

GEORGE W. MILLER,

Orderly Sergeant Marines.

DANIEL STONER,

Sergeant Marines.

LEVI STONER,

Corporal Marines.

JOHN Q. ADAMS,

PETER BOYLE,

GEORGE LYONS,

CHARLES STUETA,

THOMAS McNABOLA,

JOHN SCAMELL,

JAMES TURNER,

VALENTINE KNOCH,

WILLIAM SHELLY.

UNITED STATES SHIP SARATOGA,

Off Vera Cruz, March 10, 1860.

This is to certify that I was on the poop-deck of this ship during the engagement with the steamers Marquis of Havana and General Miramon, and heard bullets whizzing over my head, which were evidently fired from the Marquis of Havana; and I am of the opinion that she fired a heavy gun from her port bow, as I distinctly saw a flash of fire emitted from that quarter.

WILLIAM WADE,

Captain's Clerk.

I hereby certify that I distinctly saw volleys of musketry fired from the steamer Marquis of Havana, during the action on the night of the 6th instant; and I am under the impression that as the three steamers engaged passed down abreast of us, she fired a shot from her port battery, as I saw what I took to be the flash of a cannon discharged.

GEORGE W. MILLER,

Orderly Sergeant Marine-guard, U. S. Ship Saratoga.

